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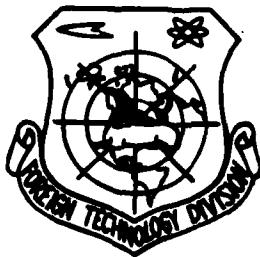
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## FOREIGN TECHNOLOGY DIVISION



HEILONGJIANG PICTORIAL  
(Selected Articles)

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Special Report: The Young Swallows of the Blue Sky .....1

Fly High, Mighty Eagles of the Plateau, by Wu Yuande, Zhang  
Yian, and Guo Tianhai .....7

## The Young Swallows of the Blue Sky

Photography by: Jien Wen, Zai Ziwei, Ding Xingguo, Wang Jien

In real life, many young girls only dream about some-day being able to fly in the blue sky, to be a member of the new generation of female pilots in new China. It is indeed an enviable ideal and an unusual profession, but it requires special knowledge, physique, perserverance and extremely hard work.

Among the female cadets admitted into the pilot school in 1981 was a young girl named Cheng Xiaojian from Jinan. After her graduation from high school, she did very well in the college entrance examinations. Just as she was to make a decision on her future, the pilot school's "selected pilot trainee" program also picked her. Without any hesitation, she chose and embarked on a career path in the blue sky. A high ideal can bring people extraordinary strength. Ever

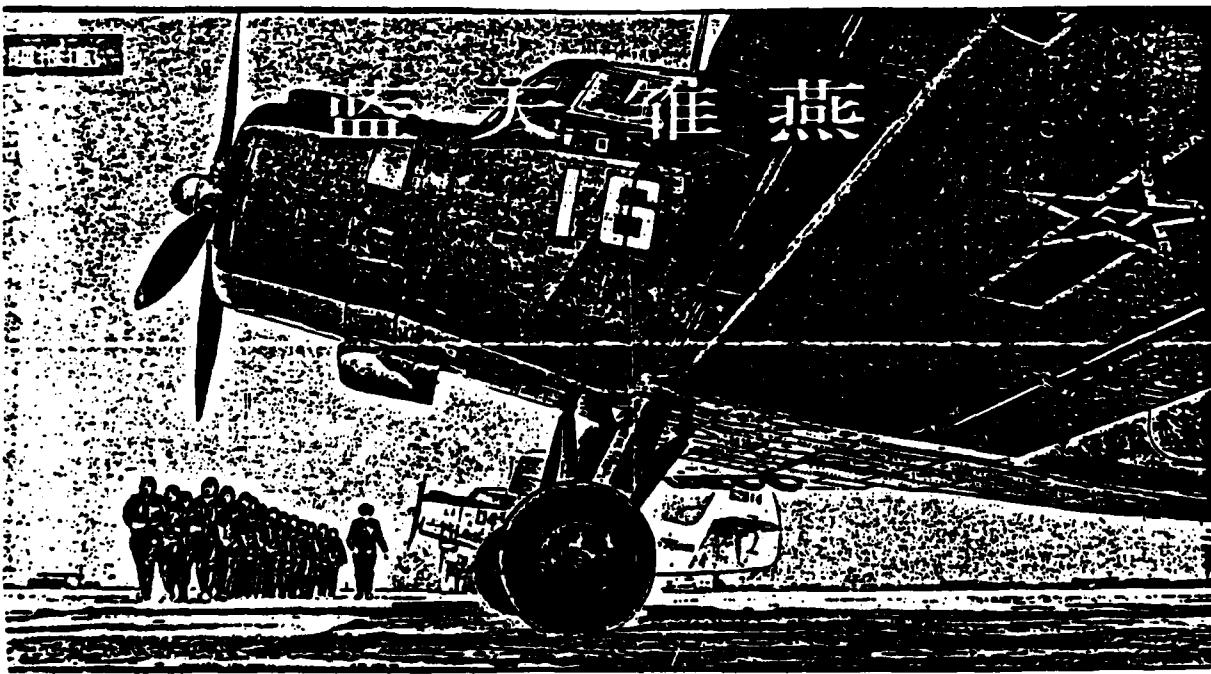
since her arrival at the pilot school, she displayed strong will and determination during every classroom session and field training: she was the first female cadet to pass the physical training test; the first one to parachute out of an airplane; and the first one to fly solo. She became known as the "Triple Crown" heroine and last year she proudly joined the Chinese Communist Party.

In order to learn to fly into the blue sky, the first step required is to master basic scientific disciplines and study aeronautical theory. During the intense study period, Miss Liu Huafeng of Qingdao became sick and had to be hospitalized. She refused to let up on her studying even when ill. In addition to studying hard by herself, she even asked her classmates who came to visit her to inform her of those lectures she had missed. As a result, she scored exceptionally well in her academic evaluations.

Theoretical background alone will not make a pilot; physical condition suitable for flying is a major qualification. Many pilots and cadets are eliminated simply because of their failure to meet this qualification. Female cadets are inherently weaker than male cadets in physique. In order to be able to maneuver in the turbulent air during actual flight training, they have to increase the intensity of their physical training program so their physical conditions can be upgraded. They diligently did daily spiral

stair, tumbling ring and dumbbell exercises, weight pulling, ball playing and long distance jogging, etc. to strengthen their physiques and toughen their will. When Cadet Liu Hong first began flight training, she could not stand the smell of gasoline - it gave her headaches and made her nauseous, and it became a major obstacle for her flight training. In order to fight it, she carried a bottle of gasoline with her all the time and smelled it whenever she got a chance.

Eventually, she did overcome this allergic reaction.



Fly into the great blue sky.



Key: (1) Commander Liu Hongjing corrects flight maneuver errors. (2) Study the principles of aircraft engines. (3) Observe and learn from fellow cadet's flight performance. (4) "Triple Crown" heroine Cheng Xiaojian. (5) Leisure activities of the female cadets.

Three years have gone fleetingly by. These "Young Swallows" are no longer the innocent and naive young girls who did not know what to do with all those switches, instruments and knobs when they first arrived at the pilot school. They have become warriors of the blue sky with strong wills and maturing flight skills. Last year they completed flight training of basic type trainers and this year they all successfully passed the solo flight test.

Currently they are taking a course previously unavailable to female cadets at the pilot school - night flight training.

It is said that unique time produces unique people. These "Young Swallows" are the first group of college-level female pilots our country has ever trained. They will be assigned combat duties shortly and march gallantly forward.



Lui Huafeng performs excellently in the academic evaluations.

Fly High, Mighty Eagles of the Plateau

Wu Yuande, Zhang Yian, Guo Tianhai

There is a "Mighty Eagle" flying high in the great sky of the fatherland. He is Zai Ren Puzuo, a pilot of Tibetan origin in a certain unit of the Air Force.

The Yushu prairie of Qinghai Province is Zai Ren Puzuo's native land and also the home of eagles. Zai Ren Puzuo is a born eagle-lover. He used to sit on horseback and watch those magnificent eagles fly, dreaming how wonderful it would be to be able to fly like one in the blue sky when he grew up.

In 1974, his dream came true; he joined the ranks of the People's Air Force. With only a junior high school education and not being able to speak Chinese well while he

was attending the pilot school, he decided, like a male eagle fighting stubbornly, to overcome a succession of difficulties by first learning Chinese, then the theories, and lastly how to fly. He would listen to radio broadcasts for correct Chinese pronunciation. Several Tibetan-Chinese dictionaries were worn out while studying to increase his Chinese literacy level. While studying aeronautical theories, he worked even harder; he managed to memorize definitions and data while walking and eating. In order to master every flight maneuver, he practiced twice as hard. Just like the saying, hard work pays off. He made straight A's in the final academic examinations. Among his classmates, he was also in the first group to fly solo.



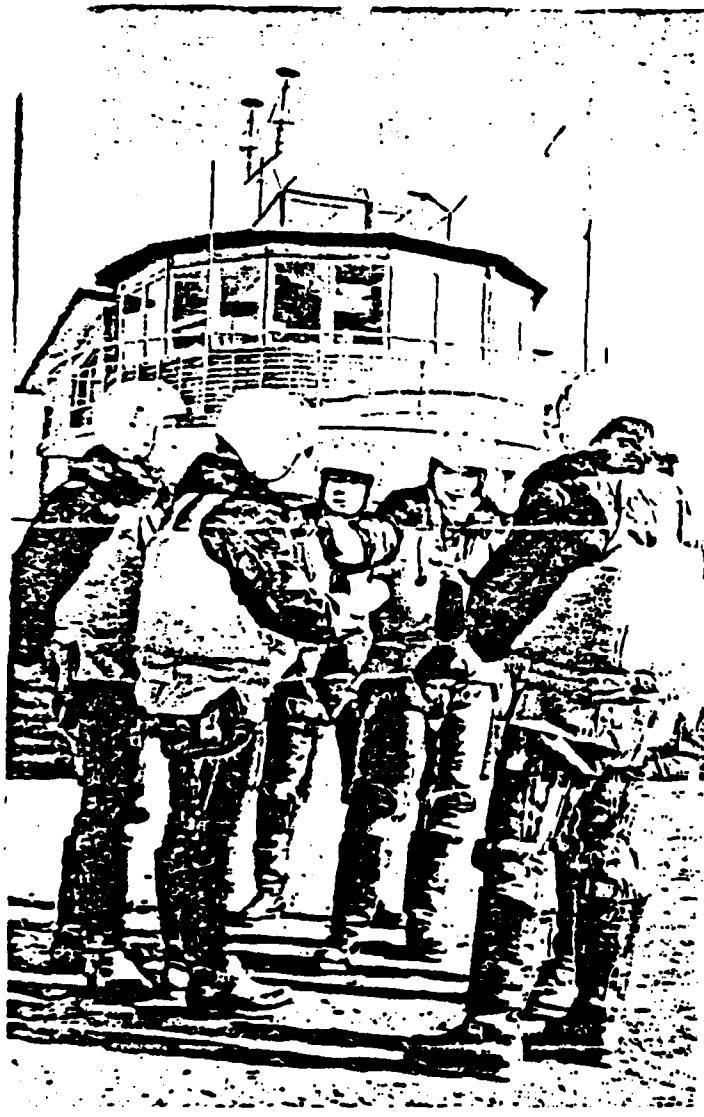
Pilot Zai Ren Puzuo of  
Tibetan origin.  
pilot.



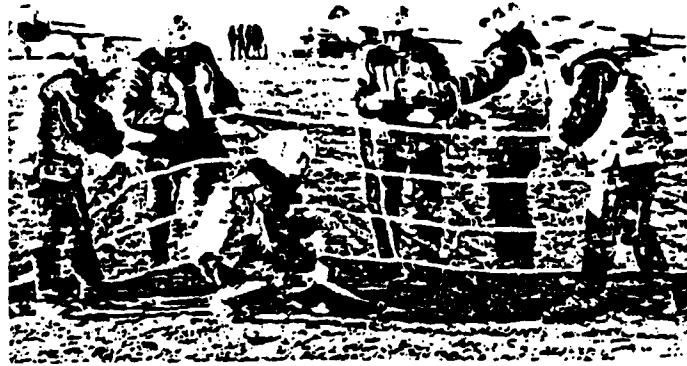
Zai Ren Puzuo gets a few  
pointers from a comrade  
who is excellent in target  
shooting.

Among the ranks of the Air Force, Zai Ren Puzuo is flying the war eagle with the duty of protecting the airspace of our fatherland. Yet, this is a treacherous career path. In one air target-live ammunition shooting practice, he scored a "big zero!" He was not discouraged by this sudden setback. With the help of his comrades, he closely examined this bad experience and used it as a lesson. He was able to find out the causes for his poor shooting performance and remembered them deep in his heart. He did extremely well in all the subsequent air target-live ammunition shooting practices and was rated as "First Class Marksman."

Alas, young Tibetan eagles,  
Fly high and fly proudly,  
In the great blue sky of our Fatherland.



Zai Ren Puzuo discusses the coordination of flight maneuvers with fellow pilots before each flight.



After air target shooting practice, Zai Ren Puzuo and comrades closely check scores and learn from the experience.



While other pilots practice once, he practices twice on the same maneuver. This is how the steel wings are really earned.



Pilots of Tibetan, Han, and other origins unite together and befriend each other. They fight next to one another like a pack of eagles to protect the vast blue sky of our fatherland.

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